

Appl. No. 09/621,432

Amdt. dated 5/31/05

Reply to Office action of 3/7/05

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claims 1-6 have been amended.

To further clarify the present invention and distinguish it over the references, independent claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended to more clearly differentiate between the terms "authentication code" and "access authorization." The authentication codes serve the authentication of the users whereas the access authorizations make possible the access to the respective service. The amended language now more clearly distinguishes the instant claims from the cited prior art.

In item 8 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2, 4, and 6 because of an informality in each claim. The Examiner's suggested corrections have been taken into account and appropriate changes have been made. More specifically, the language now reads "at least one of the users" so that there is proper antecedent basis in the independent claims from which the claims depend.

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In item 10 on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 and 5 have been rejected as being anticipated by Newton et al. (US 5,771,291 A) (hereinafter "Newton") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in the original claims and on page 3, line 5 to page 5, line 15 of the specification of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a method of authenticating users for using a multiplicity of services each being callable via a defined access authorization, by:

providing an authentication server and storing in the authentication server at least one access authorization for each of the services;

storing a multiplicity of authentication codes assigned to users in the authentication server;

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assigning each authentication code to the access authorization or authorizations for the at least one service able to be used by the user; and

upon receiving a request for a given service, carrying out authentication with the authentication server by comparing a received authentication code with the authentication codes stored in the authentication server and, if the comparison leads to a positive comparison result, setting up with the authentication server a connection to the requested service using the stored access authorization having the assigned authentication. (emphasis added)

Regarding the Examiner's comments under "Response to Arguments" on page 3 in the above-identified Office Action, amended independent claims 1, 3, and 5 positively recite the feature that the authentication server sets up the connection to the required service using the access authorization stored in the respective authentication server. This feature was impliedly set forth in the previous claims by the recitation that a defined access authorization is required for the respective services (see the language in previous claims 1, 3 and 5 "each being callable via a defined access authorization" and that the access authorizations for the services are stored in the authentication server. For example, claim 1 recites

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"providing an authentication server and storing in the authentication server at least one access authorization for each of the services." This feature is not shown in Newton. In Newton, only user specific access key codes are stored in the data bank of the server, and not access authorizations for services. Therefore, in Newton, there is no automatic connection setup to a service using an access authorization for the service as there is according to the present invention.

Claim 1 recites a method of authenticating users for using a multiplicity of services, which are each called via a defined access authorization. To the contrary, Newton discloses a method for securely accessing a host computer (in Newton, e.g., see claim 1, col. 10, lines 54-59, which recites "A method of providing user identification key codes in a manner providing secure access from a remote computer terminal to a database or server transaction program stored on a host computer...").

Claim 1 of the instant application recites at least one access authorization is stored in the authentication server for each of the services. Newton does not even mention access authorization codes for a service. Instead, in Newton, only uses specific access key codes that are stored, which the

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users require for accessing the server. Their function may be considered to correspond to the authentication codes of the present invention. However, the access authorizations in the method of claim 1 of the instant application serves for controlling the access to a service, or making access possible after the access to the authentication server by the user has already taken place by using the authentication codes, which is not shown in Newton. In Newton, only the access to the server itself is controlled via the user specific access key codes. See Newton's Fig. 1 ("check user access key code against database of individual user access key codes") as well as in Newton's specification, which only discloses user specific access key codes. Newton does not disclose access authorizations for the services according to the method of the claims of the instant application. This also applies to the paragraph in column 3, lines 22-28 of Newton, which is referred to in the Office Action and expressly states that the user specific access key codes stored in the server are used for adjusting (balancing) the access key codes transmitted by the users ("The user program then transmits the user's individual access key code (which optionally may be encrypted) over a communication network or over a telephone network to the host computer or server, which will be appropriately programmed to check the user's access key code against the registry of stored authorized individual user access key

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codes.") Thus, it is apparent that Newton does not show the previously described first method step in claim 1 of the instant application.

The second method step of claim 1 of the instant application ("storing a multiplicity of authentication codes assigned to users in the authentication server") corresponds to storing user specific access key codes in Newton.

According to the third method step of claim 1 of the instant application ("assigning each authentication code to the access authorization or authorization for at least one service able to be used by the user"), the authentication codes are assigned to the access authorization or the access authorization of those services, which are available for the respective user. Newton does not show a corresponding step since no access authorization at all is stored in the server for a service. In Newton, there are only user specific access key codes, which, as previously discussed, correspond to the authentication codes of the present invention. Access authorizations for a service are not even mentioned in Newton. The use of the different terms "user access key code", "authentication access codes" and "user's access code/user's authentication code" in the Office Action are misleading in connection with Newton's disclosure. In Newton, for example,

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in column 2, lines 46-52, the terms "individual user access codes" and "individual user access key codes" are used as synonyms. Even column 3, lines 16-28 of Newton, to which the Examiner expressly refers, lacks any disclosure or teaching that user specific access key codes are assigned to access authorizations for a service as recited in the present claims.

Regarding the last recited step in claim 1 of the instant application ("upon receiving a request for a given service, carrying out authentication with the authentication server by comparing a received authentication code with the authentication codes stored in the authentication server and, if the comparison leads to a positive comparison result, setting up with the authentication server a connection to the requested service using the stored access authorization for the service having the assigned authentication code"), Newton disclose that only a connection to the server is established, whereas in the method according to the present invention, a connection to the requested service is established by the authentication server after establishing a connection to the authentication server. According to instant claim 1, the access authorization stored in the authentication server is used for the service.

Thus, it is apparent that claim 1 of the instant application

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patentably distinguishes over Newton. There is no disclosure or teaching in Newton of the steps recited in claim 1 of the instant application, in particular the storage of access authorizations for services in the authentication server.

With reference to claim 5 of the instant application, in addition to access authorizations for each service, the claim recites that authentication codes are stored in a memory of the authentication server. To the contrary, column 3, lines 47-65 of Newton only suggest, generally, examples for transactions, which the server can perform in connection with the method disclosed in Newton. In Newton's method, no further authorization for the respective transaction is required for performing one of the transactions, which are apparently located on the server itself, since an appropriate access authorization is not shown or suggested. In particular, Newton shows no storage of access authorizations for a service or several services in the server. Even in column 1, lines 65-67 and column 2, lines 1-21, cited in the Office Action, only "identification keys", "long identification keys" or a combination thereof is mentioned, which are stored in the server. These, however, are only user specific access key codes, which control the access to the server. Contrary thereto, according to the present invention the connection to the requested service is performed by the

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device by using the access authorization of the service stored in the storage of the authentication server, as previously explained above in connection Newton's claim 1. The access authorization in question is the one which is assigned to the authentication code of the user.

Thus, as previously discussed, claim 5 of the instant application patentably distinguishes over Newton.

Newton does not show "a method of authenticating users for using a multiplicity of services each being callable via a defined access authorization", "providing an authentication server and storing in the authentication server at least one access authorization for each of the services", "assigning each authentication code to the access authorization or authorizations for at least one service able to be used by the user; and upon receiving a request for a given service, carrying out authentication with the authentication server by comparing a received authentication code with the authentication codes stored in the authentication server and, if the comparison leads to a positive comparison result, setting up with the authentication server a connection to the requested service using the stored access authorization having

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the assigned authentication" as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Claim 5 has some of these limitations.

In item 11 on page 7 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 2-4 and 6 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Newton in view of Lin et al. (US 5,999,610 A) (hereinafter "Lin") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The same comments made above in connection with claim 1 apply equally to claim 3. The Examiner's statement that the method according to Newton differs from the method according to claim 3 of the instant application solely in that the network is an intelligent network (IN) and the services are services of the intelligent network is incorrect. Applicants submit that it is not obvious from Newton and Lin to store one or several access authorizations in the authentication server for each IN service, to assign authentication codes stored in the authentication server to the access authorization or to the access authorizations of a user, and to establish a connection to the required service in the case of positive comparison of the authentication codes received from the authentication server with the authentication codes stored in the authentication server as recited in claim 3.

The last feature of claim 3 now expressly recites that the

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connection to the requested service is established by using the access authorization for the service stored in the authentication server (namely, "upon receiving a request for a given IN service, carrying out authentication with the authentication server by comparing a received authentication code with the authentication codes stored in the authentication server and, if the comparison leads to a positive comparison result, setting up with the authentication server a connection to the requested service using the stored access authorization for the service the authentication code has been assigned to"). This feature is not shown in Newton and Lin.

Thus, the claims of the instant application are believed to differ fundamentally from the methods and devices shown in Newton and Lin and define patentable invention over the combination of the references.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1, 3, or 5. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1, 3, or 5.

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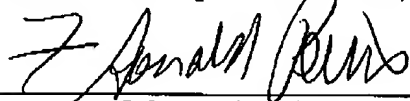
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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FDP/bb

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